

There was no objection.

Mr. SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 701, the bill just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

MODIFYING BOUNDARIES OF TALLADEGA NATIONAL FOREST

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to call up the bill, H.R. 1874, to modify the boundaries of the Talladega National Forest, Alabama, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

Mr. STENHOLM. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I shall not object, but I yield to the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. EMERSON] for an explanation of the bill.

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding under his reservation of objection.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would transfer land currently under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management to the Forest Service. The land is currently being managed by the Forest Service. Another reason for the transfer is that the Penhody National Recreational Trail runs through a portion of the land that we are transferring. This transfer will enhance the management of the Penhody. The total amount being transferred is 559 acres. It is my understanding that the minority has no objection to this legislation, and that the administration is in support.

Mr. Speaker, I will include a document titled "Questions and Answers, H.R. 1874, Talladega National Forest," for the RECORD.

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1874, a bill to modify the boundaries of the Talladega National Forest. This bill is a commonsense attempt to streamline and make more cost-efficient the management of our national forests by transferring two small tracts of adjacent Bureau of Land Management [BLM] land to the Talladega National Forest in Alabama. I commend our colleague, Mr. BROWDER of Alabama, in his efforts.

H.R. 1874 modifies the boundaries of the Talladega National Forest in Alabama by transferring approximately 350 acres of Bureau of Land Management [BLM] land to the Talladega National Forest. Both the U.S. For-

est Service and the BLM support the concept of the transfer. The bill ensures that no existing rights of way, easement, lease license or permit shall be affected by the transfer.

According to the U.S. Forest Service this transfer will actually reduce the amount of boundary line the U.S. Forest Service will be required to maintain. Further, because the BLM lands are adjacent to or surrounded by the Talladega National Forest, the Congressional Budget Office reports that there are no significant costs to the government associated with the change in jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like included in the RECORD a document from the U.S. Forest Service entitled "Questions and Answers, H.R. 1874, Talladega National Forest, Alabama," regarding the transfer.

QUESTION AND ANSWERS, H.R. 1874, TALLADEGA NATIONAL FOREST, ALABAMA

Q. Where is the Talladega National Forest located in Alabama?

A. The Talladega National Forest is broken up into two divisions—the Oakmulgee Division, located in central Alabama South and West of Birmingham, Alabama; and the Talladega Division, located east central Alabama and being East of Birmingham, Alabama.

Q. Which Division is effected by H.R. 1874?

A. The land is located on the Talladega Division.

Q. Where on the Talladega Division are the tracts mentioned in H.R. 1874 located?

A. The first tract is located in Cleburne County and contains 399.4 acres and is more particularly described as Township 17 South, Range 8 East, Section 34, NE¼, SW¼, and S½ NW¼. This tract is located within the existing Proclamation Boundary of the Talladega N.F. and close to being surrounded by National Forest ownership.

The second tract is located in Calhoun County and contains 160 acres and is more particularly described as Township 13 South, Range 9 East, Section 28, SE¼. This tract is located just outside of the existing Proclamation Boundary of Talladega N.F. but is adjacent to and contiguous with National Forest ownership.

Q. What's presently located on these lands?

A. Both properties are forested tracts with pine and hardwood. There are no known or surveyed cultural resource sites or threatened or endangered species known to be located on these tracts. However, the first and largest tract is located inside a tentative Habitat Management Area for the Red Cockaded Woodpecker, a listed endangered species. In addition, the Pinhoti Trail, administered by the Forest Service, runs through the largest tract.

Q. What is a Habitat Management Area (HMA)? and why is it "tentative"?

A. This is an area that contains pine and pine-hardwood forest types that will be managed for the recovery of the Red Cockaded Woodpecker.

It is "tentative" until the Forest has completed its Forest Plan Revision.

Q. Just what is the Pinhoti Trail?

A. The Pinhoti Trail is a National Recreation Trail that was so designated back in 1977. It is a foot trail that extends for 98.6 miles along the mountains, valleys, and ridges of the Talladega Division, Talladega National Forest.

Q. Where does the Pinhoti Trail begin and end?

A. The trail starts on the Talladega Ranger District at Clairmont Gap off of the Talladega Scenic Drive and ends on the Northeastern boundary of the Shoal Creek Ranger District at Highway 278.

Q. H.R. 1874 indicates that the first tract contains 339.4 acres while the description calls for 399.4 acres. Which is correct?

A. The 399.4 acres is correct. There was probably a typo error made while drafting the bill. However, the description is accurate.

Q. Just what does the Bill do?

A. The Bill will transfer jurisdiction of these two tracts totaling 559.4 acres from the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of Interior to the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Q. Why is this necessary?

A. As pointed out, the effected lands are adjacent to and mixed in with existing National Forest lands. This would ease the administration of these federal lands for both agencies.

Q. Does BLM Agree with this change of jurisdiction?

A. Yes. They have worked closely with the Forest Service on this transfer for a number of years.

Q. Does the public have any concern about the change?

A. No. They already think the land is part of the National Forest System because of their location. This is especially true where the Pinhoti Trail runs through the larger tract in Cleburne County. In fact, the Forests current Administrative Map shows the 399 acre parcel as being national forest.

The county records in Cleburne County shows the property to be owned by the "USA Talladega NF"; while the Calhoun County records shows it to be owned by the "US Forestry Division".

Q. Why does the Administrative Map show this property to be National Forest?

A. Probably an error was made when the map was last revised since the property is government land, almost surrounded by national forest land and has the Pinhoti Trail running through it.

Q. Are there any right-of-ways, easements, leases, licenses or permits on the lands being transferred?

A. There are no known right-of-ways, easements, etc. or known claims (neither properties are adjacent to residential development) on either of the properties. If there were, the Forest Service has the necessary authority and regulations to handle.

Q. What is the history of these Tracts?

A. The 160 acre parcel, located in Calhoun County, has never been patented and was not withdrawn from the Public Domain when the Talladega National Forest was established by Proclamation 2190 dated 7/17/1936. This property has always been owned by the United States.

The 399 acre parcel, located in Cleburne County, was patented to the State of Alabama back in August 1941. A clause in the Patent stated "this patent is issued upon the express condition that the land hereby granted shall revert to the USA upon a finding by the Secretary of Interior that for a period of five (5) consecutive years such land has not been used by the said State of Alabama for park or recreational purposes, or that such land or any part thereof is being devoted to other uses." On November 14, 1978, the State of Alabama Quitclaimed this land to the United States and on February 9, 1979 title was accepted by the Bureau of Land Management.

(NOTE: The 1891 Organic Act originally gave the President the authority to place forest land into public reservations by Proclamation. President Franklin Roosevelt issued a Proclamation withdrawing the land now within our forest boundary for public recreational use pursuant to the Recreation and Public Purposes Act before the Talladega National Forest was established by Presidential Proclamation in 1936. A patent on the withdrawn lands was then issued to the State in 1941 with a reversionary clause to the United States. Alabama